

SECURITY INFORMATION

16 January 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Psychological Staff Division

VIA: Acting Assistant Director for Policy Coordination

FROM: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Korean Cease Fire Negotiations--Prisoner Repatriation Issue

REFERENCE: PSB staff paper dated 18 October 1951 entitled "Psychological Study on Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Korea"

25X1A

25X1A

1. This will confirm a portion of my telephone conversation with you of this afternoon, in which I mentioned the PSB staff paper and told you that [REDACTED] of PSB had promised to furnish a copy of this paper to us. [REDACTED] mentioned the PSB paper 25X1A at an important meeting in [REDACTED] office this afternoon, which was called on an emergency basis for the consideration of the position to be taken by the United States on the POW repatriation question, and the propaganda treatment which this position should receive.

25X1A

2. [REDACTED] described the paper as having "no legal status," by which I gathered that he meant it had not been adopted by the Psychological Strategy Board as an approved paper. However, copies of the paper were furnished to the Departments of State and Defense--there being no indication that a copy was furnished to us. I think we should obtain this paper and examine it carefully in the light of more recent developments, and with a view to determining whether we can suggest any additions or improvements.

25X1A

3. Attached to the reference paper as Tab B, there is a list of possible measures to be taken against the Chinese and Korean Communists in the event of a violation by them of armistice terms governing prisoner return. Some of these measures are capable of implementation only by covert means, and I understand that [REDACTED] 25X1A [REDACTED] may have been the one who suggested these.

4. I recommend that you alert your staff to the probability that this already hot issue is apt to burst into flames at almost any moment and that we should be prepared with our ideas for the psychological handling of the various possibilities. It was interesting that there was a unanimous approval at this afternoon's

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25X1A

meeting of a course of action which would not allow for the enforced repatriation of unwilling Communist POWs. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] spoke strongly to the point that it would seriously undermine our moral position throughout the free world and behind the Iron Curtain if we were to "trim" on this issue, whether in reaction to Communist demands and pressures or in response to certain levels of United States public opinion which would probably be disposed to shout down anything appearing to place an obstacle in front of the most expeditious return of all UN POWs. It was most gratifying to hear the soldiers speak in these terms. 25X1A

25X1A  
[REDACTED]

FRANK G. WISNER

\* The Director, to whom I reported on this subject today, also has some very definite views on this subject. He too feels that we should not compromise on this issue of principle - and that if we do there will be such an outcry that the policy will have to be revised - just as it was finally reversed in Germany after a lot of people had cut their throats and hanged themselves rather than be subjected to enforced repatriation. 25X1A  
[REDACTED]

SECRET

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

ER-2-4946

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

PY/PP

NO.

PY/3976

DATE

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. AD PC	2044 K		31 Mar	25X1A [REDACTED]	Angela - file this in BB 210 file
2. PY/OPP					
3.					
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